The recent Report of the Royal Agricultural Commission in India lays great stress on rural reconstruction and development. The Committee have made it sufficiently clear that this could not be achieved by the contributions at present made from the Provincial Revenues to the local bodies. What they say of British India in this matter is true of our State.

We have, therefore, to proceed cautiously in the matter, and all aspects of the question would be considered when this portion of the report of the Special Finance Committee is taken up. Meanwhile a provision of Rs. 1,84,664 is made in the present budget.

Co-operative Societies.—The executive staff of the Department, which was quite under-manned and to which I referred in detail last year, was strengthened during the course of the year by the full complement of the Inspectorate recommended since by the Special Finance Committee. Provision for all of them has been made under 'Temporary Establishment' for next year. With the strengthened staff I hope that the Department will spread itself all throughout the State shedding its beneficence on our indebted rural population and doing all that Co-operation stands for.

Forests and Tramway.—I now come to a subject which has ever been in the forefront of the budget discussions in the Legislative Council and which has been the bug-bear to successive administrations— I mean the Forests and Tramway. Government have carefully perused the report of the Special Finance Committee with its notes of dissent, and more or less in the light of the recommendations therein practically ordered the discontinuance of the Tramway from the end of 1103. In issuing these orders Government had thought that it would be possible to bring down all valuable timber during the course of 1103. A close perusal of the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee would show that they were not for leaving to decay the valuable timber that could be felled and transported with the help of the Tramway. They only suggested that it should be possible to complete the work of extraction and transport before the close of Makaram 1103. I had then made it clear that the suggestion was not feasible. I shall repeat what I then remarked. 'Government are, however, assured that in the present condition of the Tramway it will not be possible to bring down the timber in so short a period as recommended by the Committee. But if the work is pushed through, which the Government are insisting, it may be possible to bring down the timber *perhaps* in 1103 itself. Please note the word *perhaps*. Even then Government had their own misgivings whether the

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